



The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association

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NEWS RELEASE

AHEPA Commends House Members on Visa Waiver Letter

Greece deserves entry into the Visa Waiver Program based on her own merits

Washington, D.C. - The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) applauds members of the US House of Representatives for their letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff in regard to Greece's candidacy to enter the Visa Waiver Program .

Following multiple visits to Capitol Hill by AHEPA's President Gus J. James, II, Congressman Zack Space initiated a letter that was championed by Congressional Hellenic Caucus co-chairs Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney and Congressman Gus Bilirakis.

"We are pleased with the bipartisanship support of the letter which illustrates that all the current standards and criteria have been met by Greece in full compliance with the requirements of the Visa Waiver Program and we are convinced that Greece deserves entry based on her own merits," said James, who added the letter respectfully requests that the program be extended to include Greek nationals as soon as possible.

The following members of the House of Representatives signed the letter:

Zachary Space, (D-18th-OH); Carolyn Maloney, (D-14th-NY); Gus Bilirakis, (R-9th-FL); John Sarbanes, (D-3rd-MD); Shelly Berkley, (D-1st-NV); Jim McGovern, (D-3rd-MA); Earl Blumenauer, (D-3rd-OR); Henry Brown, (R-1st-SC); Diane Watson, (D-33rd-CA); Lincoln Diaz-Balart, (R-21st-FL); Scott Garrett, (R-5th-NJ); Thaddeus McCotter, (R-11th-MI); Allyson Schwartz, (D-13th-PA); Frank Pallone, (D-6th-NJ); Adam Schiff, (D-29th-CA); Robert Wexler, (D-19th-FL); Barbara Lee, (D-9th-CA); Joseph Crowley, (D-7th-NY); Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, (R-18th-FL); Vito Fossella, (R-13th-NY); Mario Diaz-Balart, (R-25th-FL)

"AHEPA would like to thank all the members who signed the letter and those who have expressed interest and have opened a line of communication regarding this issue," added James.

The mission of the AHEPA family is to promote the ideals of Hellenism, education, philanthropy, civic responsibility and family and individual excellence.

For more information about the AHEPA family, or how to join, please contact AHEPA Headquarters, 202.232.6300, or visit www.ahempa.org.

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